

USAID Progress Activity Report

STRENGTHENING PROTECTED AREA EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT IN PERU

Project # 527-A-00-01-00157-00 under LAG-A-00-99-00048-00

Report period: July - September 2002. WWF-PPO

I. Summary of Activity Status and Progress

a. Introductory paragraph.

Over the past three months, this project has generated numerous positive results. INRENA continues to use the Scorecard, a comprehensive matrix for monitoring management capacity developed through this project. The Scorecard has enabled INRENA to gather baseline information for and conduct preliminary evaluations of all Natural Protected Areas (NPA). Over the next trimester, the PPO will continue to support INRENA in monitoring effective management, and NPA personnel and monitoring experts will be consulted to strengthen the system. Activities to review land tenure issues and conflicts in four NPA have also been designed. In fact, work has already been initiated in Public Registry offices, and some landmark signs have been posted. The third component of the project, providing support to the Paracas National Reserve (PNR) is also advancing according to plan – a draft Master Plan for the area has been produced and a PPO consultant initiated development of the Financial and Technical Sustainability Plan for the area.

b. Highlights.

- The Scorecard for monitoring effective management of in the Peruvian National NPA System (SINANPE), has been run twice in 28 Natural Protected Areas – once to obtain 2001 baseline data and again to conduct first evaluations.
- The biological monitoring conceptual framework and preliminary indicators for the PNR and the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve (PSNR) have been finished.
- In cooperation with INRENA, the PPO is working directly with personnel from 4 NPA in order to review and resolve land tenure issues and conflicts. Activities for each NPA have been designed and are being implemented
- The Technical Team in charge of developing the PNR Master Plan completed consultations with Paracas stakeholders (including fisherman, local authorities, tourism offices, etc.) to develop strategies for the plan, and has a first version of the document.
- The consultant that will develop the Financial and Technical Sustainability Plan for the PNR was hired and is now in the PNR developing the plan in close coordination with personnel from INRENA and the Technical Team, as well as other key players.

c. Table of Activity Status

Activity Number	Activity Title	Status	Page number for more information
1	Effective management and Monitoring System of SINANPE	Mixed-performance	2
2	Land tenure issues review and conflict resolution in the SINANPE protected area network	Mixed-performance	4

3	Support for strengthening the Paracas National Reserve	Mixed-performance	4
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II. Detailed Description of Site Progress

For each site, please include the following information.

a. Key short and long-term program objectives for the site.

Project goals will be accomplished through three main objectives:

1. Promote effective management in all 52 protected areas within the SINANPE protected area network through the development of an overall monitoring system to gauge effective management and conservation action impact.
2. Review and resolve land tenure issues and conflicts within 4* priority protected areas of the SINANPE.
3. Support the effective management of the PNR through the update of the Master Plan that defines priority conservation and threat mitigation activities and lays down a long-term financial and technical sustainability plan.

* In the original proposal, the PPO aimed to ensure that ten protected areas have defined and demarcated boundaries, but due to complexities discovered through the priority-setting process this number was reduced to four.

b. Summary of Progress for Site (if this provides added value or clarity, otherwise skip this)

c. Activity Description

i. Activity Title : Effective management and Monitoring System of SINANPE

ii. Summary of major achievements and progress

- The validated version of the Scorecard has, thus far, been applied to NPAs twice. With the first application, conducted in May, information from 2001 was gathered for 49 NPA. During August and September, the matrix was again applied, this time providing data from the first half of 2002 in 34 NPA. The matrix will be applied in the rest of the NPA in October.
- The baseline data gathered (2001) reflects some interesting results:
 - By SINANPE protected area category, highest scores for effective management were earned by Manu (National Park category), Pacaya Samiria (National Reserve category), Lagunas de Mejia (National Sanctuary category), Pomac (Historic Sanctuary category), and Angolo (Game Reserve category). In the categories of Protection Forest and Communal Reserve, Alto Mayo and Amarakaeri respectively scored most highly. Finally, at the level of Reserved Zone, Pantanos de Villa received the highest scores for effective management.
 - Overall, the SINANPE categories that ranked most highly in terms of effective management are National Reserves, followed by National Sanctuaries and National Parks respectively. Specifically, the Lagunas de Mejia National Sanctuary ranked highest overall, with Pacaya Samiria a close second place.
- Among the 34 NPA that applied the matrix, performance information reflected an improvement in management conditions in each instance, with the exception of the Angolo Game Reserve, where

management effectiveness has diminished. INRENA has noted the reduction in management effectiveness in the Reserve, particularly in terms of threats variables, and will attempt to discover its causes. It should be noted that the matrix has not yet been run a second time in some areas that scored quite highly on the first run, such as Pacaya Samiria, Pomac Forest, Alto Mayo and Amarakaeri, thus current performance in these areas has not been evaluated.

- As NPAs continue to apply the matrix, INRENA and the PPO continue to improve it significantly. Not only the text, but information processing methods are evolving as the system develops. Improvements will be incorporated into the methodology, without any major alterations to the final product. The system will only be modified in terms of details, and improvements will be finalized based on the matrix's second application.
- The PPO consultant has finished the conceptual framework for the monitoring system, which includes a literature review, key concepts, considerations for the selection of indicators, steps for the institutionalization of the system and a preliminary timeline for the pilot monitoring plans in the PNR and PSNR. One of the conceptual framework's key recommendations is that the monitoring system be adopted by INRENA only partially. Some of the more biological indicators should be adopted by research, academic or other institutions. The preliminary indicators for the PNR were determined with the help of the former chief of the Reserve, and the list for the PSNR was developed with the current chief. During consultations, several indicators were slated for immediate adoption, due to either: evaluations already in process, links to an urgent threat, or obvious importance for the area. The selection of indicators for the pilot evaluations for the next year is still pending.
- A framework for the Overall Monitoring System has been developed, which already includes a list of preliminary indicators. This framework is based on the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and World Conservation Union's (IUCN) framework for assessing the management of protected areas and takes into consideration five elements that should be included in evaluating management effectiveness in NPA and in the SINANPE overall. Indicators are on different levels and provide information regarding management capacity and the impact of management on biodiversity conservation in each NPA and the SINANPE. The system will next be collaboratively evaluated by several key players, including other NGOs, potential donors, and INRENA representatives.

iii. Table of progress in meeting key activity benchmarks

Benchmark Number	Benchmark/Output	Status
1.1	Implementation of scorecard to Monitor Effective Management	
1.1.1	Validated and approved protected area management monitoring scorecard	Completed
1.1.2	Scorecard implementation plan and timetable for all SINANPE protected areas	Completed
1.1.3	Baseline data (year 2001) of all SINANPE protected areas based on scorecard application	Completed
1.2	Biological Monitoring System Complete	
1.2.1	Completion of a set of preliminary indicator species, communities and ecological processes	On-track
1.2.2	Completion of variable and indicator monitoring protocols	On-track
1.3	Overall Monitoring System Complete	
1.3.1	Completion of SINANPE Overall Monitoring System	On-track
1.3.2	Implementation of Overall Monitoring System and activities timetable	Pending

iv. Key management issues

- Results from application of the Scorecard in various NPA have revealed occasional slight variances regarding interpretation of the matrix by area chiefs and park guards responsible for filling out the matrix. For example, some park staff had slightly different perceptions of the numerical values used in the scoring system. In order to resolve any doubts or unclearness, and to avoid errors in filling out the matrix and distortions in the information that they provide, NPA chiefs and personnel should be trained. To make the training most effective, specific identified weaknesses should be targeted. Also, implementation of the Overall Monitoring System remains pending because the system is still being collaboratively developed for final INRENA approval.

i. Activity Title : Land Tenure Issues Review and Conflict Resolution in the SINANPE Protected Area Network

ii. Summary of major achievements and progress

- This trimester, four target NPAs were selected and several activities have been designed and are already underway. Budgets for some activities have been developed, and activities will be further developed over the coming trimester. Specifically, planned activities include:
 - Pómac Historic Sanctuary: Construction of 11 main sign posts, 25 secondary sign posts and 10 informative signs. As part of the demarcation process, paths around the NPA will also be reconditioned. Office and field work will be conducted with PETT and Catastro Rural in order to develop legal boundary agreements among property holders. A study of land registries will be completed, based on current listings in the Public Registry.
 - Abiseo National Park: Correction of the Park's registry in the Juanjui public registry. Development of legal boundary agreements for the plots of land identified by PETT. Construction of three main sign posts.
 - Paracas National Reserve: A map and written description of the area will be prepared for the southern part of the Reserve in order to meet with government requirements for National Reserves. Identification of properties surrounding the PNR in order to develop legal boundary agreements. Signpost construction.
 - Amarakaeri Communal Reserve: Sign post construction and NPA inscription in public registries.

iii. Table of progress in meeting key activity benchmarks

Benchmark Number	Benchmark/Output	Status
2.1	Digitalized maps and ground-truthing implementation plan of SINANPE	On-track
2.2	At least 4 protected areas have defined and demarcated boundaries	On-track
2.3	Protected area land tenure conflict resolution agreement documents	On-track
2.4	Omnibus bill final draft	Pending ¹

iv. Key management issues

¹ The final draft of the omnibus bill remains pending because its content will depend on the results of the land tenure issues review and conflict management activities currently being conducted by the PPO, as well as on the results of similar activities being conducted by INRENA and other organizations in other NPAs. This product will likely be delivered towards the end of the project.

i. Activity Title : Support for Strengthening of the Paracas National Reserve

ii. Summary of major achievements and progress

- The Technical Team updating the Reserve's Master plan has been improving the Plan based on working group meetings for strategy development. The Team has designed seven new objectives for the document, which were presented to and approved by various Paracas stakeholders (including local and national NGOs, fishermen, local authorities, etc.). Over the last few months, the Team has convened 23 meetings with various stakeholders, and has already developed strategies and activities for each objective. The plan will be finished over the next trimester.
- As part of the process to develop the plan, the Technical Team has produced a series of documents which have been critical to the process, including: a diagnostic of the PNR and its surrounding areas, an analysis of the current situation regarding special concessions for mariculture, an analysis of the 1996 Master Plan, a legal framework for the process of updating the PNR Master Plan, a diagnostic on potential tourism in the Pisco Paracas area, and six workshop reports.
- The group composed of the Technical Team and representatives from the Fisheries Ministry, the Peruvian Sea Institute (IMARPE), INRENA, the Fishermen Federation (FIUPAP), researchers, and the Health Bureau (DIGESA), conformed in order to organize hydrobiological resource extraction, has developed strategies and activities that are being incorporated into the draft Master Plan. One of the group's principal goals is to award titles for fishing areas.
- The consultant that will develop the Financial and Technical Sustainability Plan for the PNR has already been hired and begun work. He is gathering diverse information from the NPA and has had initial meetings with different players in the Reserve, through which he has obtained a general diagnostic of the Reserve's administrative and financial system, and a list of general strategies to resolve problems identified in the diagnostic.

iii. Table of progress in meeting key activity benchmarks

Benchmark Number	Benchmark/Output	Status*
3.1	Technical Team hired	Completed
3.2	Paracas National Reserve Master Plan consulted, validated, and approved by DGANP/INRENA	On-track
3.3	Financial and Technical Sustainability Plan (FTSP) validated and approved	On-track
3.4	Paracas National Reserve Master Plan and FTSP published and disseminated	On-track

iv. Key management issues

III. Success Stories and Other Appendices

When appropriate and possible, include one or more one-page success stories appropriate for public dissemination.